

## Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 SEOUL 01897 201031Z

21

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 ACDA-05 IO-10 NSCE-00

SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 /064 W  
----- 012532

O 201005Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8978

INFO SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE

CINCPAC

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SEOUL 1897

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MARR, KS, KN

SUBJECT: MEDIA COVERAGE ON TUNNELS

REF: CINCUNC 190910Z MAR 75

1. ALL ROK MEDIA GAVE PROMINENT COVERAGE MARCH 20 TO UNC ANNOUNCEMENT (REFTEL) OF TUNNEL DISCOVERY IN SIXTH DIVISION AREA WITH PICTURES AND LOCATION SKETCHES. AFTERNOON PRESS HAS ALSO PICKED UP STATEMENTS BY MND AND MCI MINISTERS PLAYING THEM ON FRONT PAGES.

2. MND SUH CHONG-CHOL IS REPORTED AS TERMING TUNNEL AS "ACT OF WAR" IN PRESS STATEMENT MORNING MARCH 20. MND ALSO REPORTED STATING THAT TUNNEL WAS 3.5 KILOMETERS LONG, WAS INTENDED TO REACH 500 METERS SOUTH OF SOUTHERN TAPE OF DMZ, AND THAT THERE ARE SEVERAL OTHER TUNNELS BESIDE THIS ONE IN DMZ. MND CLAIMED TUNNELS WERE BEGUN IMMEDIATELY AFTER JULY 4 SOUTH-NORTH COMMUNIQUE AND WERE DUE FOR COMPLETION OCTOBER 10, 1975.

3. ROKG SPOKESMAN AND MCI MINISTER YI WON-KYONG,  
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 SEOUL 01897 201031Z

ALSO ISSUED STATEMENT MARCH 20 SAYING GOVERNMENT SHOCKED

TO KNOW THERE WERE SO MANY TUNNELS IN DMZ. HE REPORTED NEWEST TUNNEL AS TWICE AS LARGE AS FIRST, LARGE ENOUGH TO ACCOMMODATE VEHICLES AND EVEN FIELD ARTILLERY. HE SAID NORTH COULD LAUNCH A DIVISION TO REAR OF ROK LINES WITHIN AN HOUR THROUGH TUNNEL. HE ALSO SAID ROKG STUDYING COUNTER-MEASURES AND URGED NORTH TO STOP SUCH ACTS OF AGGRESSION.

4. IN FIRST EDITORIAL COMMENT JOONGANG ILBO STATED, "THE TUNNEL WE FOUND PROVED THAT NK IS TRYING TO USE IT AS A BASIC INVASION ROUTE TO ROK... IT IS FORTUNATE THAT THE TUNNEL WAS DETECTED NOT BY AN ACCIDENT BUT BY SCIENTIFIC INVESTIGATION ... WE FEEL REASSURED TO HEAR THAT UNC IS TRYING TO MAKE IT INEFFECTIVE ... IT PROVED THAT NK'S PEACE GESTURE WAS DISGUISED ONE ... WE HAVE A REPORT THAT NK HAS MOVED ITS AIR AND MISSILE BASES DOWN TO THE SOUTH AND CONCENTRATED THEIR RIVER-CROSSING EQUIPMENT ALONG THE DOWN STREAM OF YESUNG RIVER NEAR DMZ ... THIS MAKES CLEAR THAT SOMETHING MUST BE GOING ON IN NK ... WE MUST STRENGTHEN OUR NATIONAL SECURITY BY CONCENTRATING OUR NATIONAL POWER."

5. COMMENT: MND STATEMENTS REGARDING EXIT POINT OF TUNNEL IS SPECULATIVE, AND MCI CLAIMS THAT VEHICLES, ARTILLERY, AND ONE DIVISION PER HOUR COULD BE PUT THROUGH TUNNEL ARE DUBIOUS AT BEST. AS EXPECTED ROKS ARE COLORING TUNNEL STORY SUBSTANTIALLY IN EFFORT TO PLAY TO THE HILT THE THREAT IT REPRESENTS.  
ERICSON

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESS COMMENTS, TUNNELS, PUBLIC ATTITUDES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 20 MAR 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** RowellE0  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975SEOUL01897  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750097-0418  
**From:** SEOUL  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1975/newtext/t19750332/aaaabcq.tel  
**Line Count:** 88  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION EA  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 75 CINCUNC 190910Z, 75 MAR 75  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** RowellE0  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 15 JUL 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <15 JUL 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <14 NOV 2003 by RowellE0>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
05 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** MEDIA COVERAGE ON TUNNELS  
**TAGS:** MARR, KS, KN  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006